



OBVERSE



REVERSE

MEDAL

DEFENSE OF FREEDOM

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

RIBBON: Red, white and blue are our National colors. The red stripes commemorate valor and sacrifice. The wide blue stripe represents strength. The number of red stripes also represent the four terrorist attacks using hijacked airplanes and the single blue stripe represents the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. This day, more than ever, united this country and brought to the forefront our heroic civilians.

MEDAL: The eagle and shield exemplify the principles of freedom and the defense of these freedoms on which our country is founded. The laurel is emblematic of honor and high achievement.

The eagle also refers to the Defense Department announcing that the code name for the mission to protect this country in response to the terrorist attack is "OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE."

The reverse is inscribed with 'ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION' and below a wreath of laurel, representing honor.